

In the paper in which I first recorded the activity here specially dwelt upon, in the case of the Great Crested Grebe, I put forward the above view, in explanation of it. Now, many years afterwards, I learn that the late Professor Metchnikoff held the same opinion (whether in reference to my own notes which, so far as I know, first placed the facts upon record, or otherwise, I am not sure) and Haeckel's concurrence also, I think, lies implicit in his work 'The Evolution of Man,' though he does not there mention — probably through not having been aware of it — the matter in question. I would suggest, therefore, under shelter of these names, that a new possible factor enters into the philosophy of nuptial or ante-nuptial excitatory actions in birds, and, through these, of true purposive display and progressive sexual selection.

EDMUND SELOUS.

6 Albany Gardens,  
King's Road,  
Richmond Survey.  
Nov. 22, 1916.

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## NOTES AND NEWS.

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PROFESSOR FOSTER ELLENBOROUGH LASCELLES BEAL, a Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, died suddenly at his home near Berwyn, Md., October 1, 1916. Professor Beal was in the 77th year of his life and in the 25th of service in the U. S. Biological Survey. He was born at South Groton, Massachusetts, January 9, 1840. His early life was spent upon a farm, but he was determined to get an education and was graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1872. He was professor of mathematics in the United States Naval Academy in 1873-4, and professor, in turn, of mathematics, zoölogy, and geology in the Agricultural College at Ames, Iowa, from 1876 to 1883. He was employed in the Biological Survey for six months in 1886 and began his permanent term of service in 1892. He prepared, either wholly or in part, 24 official publications, besides numerous other scientific articles, and played an important part in building up the existing system of laws for the protection of American birds. A full account of the life and work of Professor Beal will be published in a later number of 'The Auk.' — W. L. M.

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NEVER before has death taken such heavy toll from the active membership of the American Ornithologists' Union, as in the year 1916. The loss of four of the Fellows, Dr. D. G. Elliot,<sup>1</sup> Prof. Wells W. Cooke,<sup>1</sup> Prof. F. E. L. Beal, and Dr. E. A. Mearns, two of whom were founders, has now reduced the list of surviving founders of the Union to less than half its original number. Dr. Edgar Alexander Mearns died at the Walter Reed Hospital, in Washington, D. C., on November 1, 1916, only a few days before the last annual meeting.

The son of Alexander and Nancy R. (Carswell) Mearns, he was born at Highland Falls, N. Y., September 11, 1856. He graduated from the College of Physicians and Surgeons (Columbia University) in 1881, and in the same year married Miss Ella Wittich of Circleville, Ohio. On December 3, 1883, he received an appointment as first lieutenant and assistant surgeon in the medical corps of the U. S. Army and remained 25 years in active military service. He was promoted to the rank of captain and assistant surgeon December 3, 1888, major and brigade surgeon of volunteers, June 4, 1898, major and surgeon in the regular army February 2, 1901, and was retired with the rank of lieutenant colonel on January 1, 1909. He was one of the most eminent of that group of army surgeons which includes Cooper, Coues, Hammond, Henry, Merrill, Suckley and others, who in addition to their regular military duties, found time to do field work in natural history and thus were able to add much to our knowledge of the zoölogy of the west.

Dr. Mearns' first ornithological papers, containing notes on rare birds in the Hudson Valley near West Point, appeared in the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club in 1878, and his 'List of Birds of the Hudson Highlands' which still remains one of the most complete papers on the birds of this part of New York, was published in 1879-81. While serving in the army his most notable work was done at Fort Verde, Ariz., in the eighties, on the Mexican Boundary Commission in 1892-94, and during his service in the Philippines in 1903-04 and 1905-07. Reports have been published on only a part of his Boundary collections. His 'Mammals of the Mexican Boundary' contains accounts of the trees, big game and rodents but unfortunately this report was never completed and no comprehensive account of the birds has thus far been published. Several papers on his Philippine birds have appeared from time to time.

In 1909 Dr. Mearns accompanied Col. Theodore Roosevelt on the Smithsonian African Expedition to British East Africa and in 1911-12 he visited Abyssinia as field naturalist of the Childs-Frick African Expedition. Since his return from this expedition he has been busily engaged in working up his collections. He has published a number of papers on the most interesting novelties among the birds, and at the time of his death was preparing a comprehensive report on the birds obtained in Africa.

Dr. Mearns was an enthusiastic all-round naturalist. While interested

<sup>1</sup> See Vol. XXXIII, pp. 230-231 and 354-355, 1916, and memorial address, *antea* pp. 1-10.

primarily in vertebrates, he was also a good field botanist and devoted much attention to land shells and to ethnology. He was an indefatigable collector, a careful observer, and wherever he went he never missed an opportunity to secure material illustrating the natural history and ethnology of the region. The collections of the U. S. National Museum and the American Museum of Natural History have been greatly enriched as a result of his active field work. He also had the ability and desire — too often lacking in active field collectors — to work up his material whenever he had the proper facilities, and as opportunity offered he placed on record descriptions of new species, and notes on nomenclature, distribution and habits of the birds and mammals which had come under his observation.

He was an Associate in Zoölogy of the National Museum, a patron of the American Museum, a correspondent of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, a Founder of the American Ornithologists' Union, and a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Linnæan Society of New York, the Biological Society of Washington, and the Washington Academy of Sciences. In manner he was quiet and unassuming, deeply interested not only in his own work but in that of others and his enthusiasm and uniform cheerfulness were an inspiration to those who were privileged to be numbered among his friends.

A Memorial address on Dr. Mearns will be read at the next meeting of the Union.— T. S. P.

EDWARD ARTHUR BUTLER, a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union died at his home, Winsford Hall, Stokesby, near Great Yarmouth, England, on April 16, 1916, in his 73rd year. We learn from 'The Ibis' that he was born in Warwickshire and was educated at Eton, entering the army in 1864 and retiring with the rank of Lieut. Colonel, in 1884. Later he participated in the Boer War in South Africa. During eleven years in India he was associated with Allan Hume and others who, like himself, were interested in ornithology. He did much collecting and was a contributor to 'Stray Feathers' and the 'Bombay Gazateer'. The results of his observations in Africa were published in 'The Zoologist' and 'The Ibis.'— W. S.

PROF. ALBERT JOHN COOK of Claremont, Calif., an Associate Member of the American Ornithologists' Union from 1894 to 1898, died at the home of his son at Owosso, Mich., on September 30, 1916. Prof. Cook was born at Owosso on August 30, 1842, and at the time of his death had recently celebrated his 74th birthday. He was the son of Ezekiel and Barbara Ann (Hodge) Cook, and a graduate of the Michigan Agricultural College (B. S. 1862, M. S. 1865, and D. Sc. 1905). For 26 years he was connected with the faculty of his alma mater. He served as instructor in mathematics 1867-69, and professor of zoölogy and entomology 1868-93, at the same time acting as curator of the Museum 1875-93,

and entomologist of the experiment station 1888-91. In 1893 he removed to Claremont, Calif., where, for 18 years, until 1911, he was associated with Pomona College as professor of biology. During the last five years of his life he served as state commissioner of horticulture of California.

Although primarily an entomologist, Prof. Cook was interested in other branches of zoölogy and published several valuable papers on birds. From 1872 to 1875 he contributed five short articles on the relation of birds and insects to the Reports of the Michigan State Pomological Society and the State Board of Agriculture and in 1896 one on the 'Food of Woodpeckers and Flycatchers' to 'The Auk.' His principal ornithological contribution was his 'Birds of Michigan' published in 1893 as Bulletin 94 of the Michigan Agricultural Experiment Station. This report was issued in two editions, one containing 148 pages, in April, and the other containing 168 pages, in September. It included notes on 332 species and a full bibliography of Michigan ornithology. This very useful list, which brought together in convenient form the many scattered notes on the birds of the State, was reviewed in 'The Auk' for 1893, pp. 351-352. Some of the species have since been transferred to the hypothetical list and Prof. W. B. Barrows, although adding a number of others in his 'Report on Michigan Bird Life,' in 1912 recognized only 326 species as positively identified within the limits of the state.

Prof. Cook was married twice. On June 30, 1870, he married Miss Mary H. Baldwin of Dayton, O., and on July 3, 1897, Mrs. Sarah J. Eldredge of Pasadena, Calif. He is survived by the latter, by his son, A. B. Cook of Owosso, Mich., and by his daughter, Mrs. Lyman J. Briggs of Washington, D. C.—T. S. P.

PROF. DONALDSON BODINE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died on August 26, 1915, at Douglas Lake, Michigan, in the forty-ninth year of his age. He was born in Richboro, Pa., December 13, 1866; graduated from Cornell University in 1887, and received the degree of Sc.D. from his Alma Mater in 1895. At the time of his death he was professor of geology and zoölogy in Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana.—J. H. S.

TIMOTHY OTIS FULLER, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died at his home in Needham, Mass., August 17, 1916, aged 71 years. He was born in Needham, February 2, 1845, where his family had resided since the beginning of the nineteenth century. While engaged in business he found time to serve his town in several important capacities. Mr. Fuller's great interest however, was in nature and he spent much time in tramps, studying the birds and flowers of his vicinity as well as those of the White Mountains, a region with which he became thoroughly familiar. He was a true lover of nature and obtained from his studies an unusual knowledge of the "great outdoors" which he was ever ready to share with others.—W. S.

LEWIS LINDSAY DYCHE, noted as an explorer and zoölogical collector, Professor of Zoölogy at the University of Kansas, and an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died after a week's illness at Stormont Hospital in Topeka, Kansas, on January 20, 1915.

Professor Dyche was born in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, on March 20, 1857. His parents removed to Kansas three months later and settled on the Wakarusa River near Topeka. He began his education in a country school at the age of twelve, then entered the State Normal School at Emporia and three years later in 1881 enrolled in the State University at Lawrence. Here he came in contact with Dr. Francis H. Snow who seeing his strong interest in zoölogy encouraged and aided him in every way possible. Professor Dyche graduated from the University in 1884, took the degree of Master of Arts in 1886 and Master of Science in 1888. Even before his graduation he was made Assistant Professor of Zoölogy. In 1890 he became curator of birds and mammals in the University Museum of Natural History and was made Professor of Zoölogy. Though occupied in teaching and lecturing much of his time was given to building up the collections of vertebrates in the museum. His energies were devoted largely to collecting and mounting groups of large mammals for exhibition but birds were not neglected and the bird skins gathered on his expeditions form the nucleus of the collections in ornithology at present stored in the institution. Notable among his gatherings is a series of skins from Greenland. His dreams of a Museum were realized in 1903 when he was given a new building on the University Campus in which to house his collections. In 1909 Professor Dyche while still retaining his position in the university was made State Fish and Game Warden and held that position until the time of his death. He was elected an Associate in the Union in 1886. Though his observations as a field naturalist were many, his published writings are few. He contributed brief notes on the occurrence of certain birds in Kansas at various times to 'The Auk' and to the 'Transactions of the Kansas Academy of Science', and short papers appeared elsewhere.—A. W.

MISS MARY BISSELL FERRY, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Norwalk, Conn., March 18, 1915, in the sixty-sixth year of her age. She was a daughter of the late U. S. Senator Orris S. Ferry, of Connecticut, and granddaughter of Gov. Clark Bissell of the same State. A cousin, Miss Mary A. Bissell, writes of her: "Miss Ferry was a woman of noble character, broad philanthropy, and high literary attainments, inheriting much of her father's vigorous mentality. She was an ardent lover of nature, and an enthusiastic bird student lending her influence to all legislation for their protection. The last ten years of her life were spent with her mother, at their home in Norwalk, amid charming surroundings of woodland and meadow, made especially attractive to the birds by pools, bird shelter boxes, and food in abundance during the winter months. Her little feathered friends repaid their sympathetic and gener-



ous benefactor by flocking in great numbers to the place, and showing friendliness and tameness." Miss Ferry was born in Norwalk, September 17, 1849.— J. H. S.

MRS. JANE LOUISA HINE, an Associate of the American Ornithologists' Union, died in Sedan, Indiana, February 11, 1916, in her eighty-fifth year. She was the daughter of Lonson Brooks, and was born in Erie County, Ohio, April 2, 1831. After attending public schools in her native county she finished her education at Oberlin College. Early in life she became interested in birds and continued to study them as long as she lived. She wrote much on birds for 'The Farmer's Guide,' Huntington, Ind., and many of her notes are published in Butler's 'The Birds of Indiana.' Her 'Observations on the Ruby-throated Hummingbird' is printed in 'The Auk' (1894, pp. 253-254).— J. H. S.

OWING to ill health, Mr. H. W. Henshaw has resigned his position as Chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, dating from December 1. Mr. Henshaw has been connected with the Department of Agriculture since 1905, serving as Assistant Chief of the Bureau until 1910, thence on as Chief. During this period the Survey has grown rapidly. In order that the Bureau may continue to have the benefit of Mr. Henshaw's knowledge and experience he will retain official connection with it as consulting biologist.

Mr. E. W. Nelson, who has been on the scientific staff of the Bureau since 1890 and Assistant Chief since 1914, has been appointed to succeed Mr. Henshaw as Chief of the Bureau.

DR. GEORGE W. FIELD, formerly State Fish and Game Commissioner of Massachusetts is now a member of the Biological Survey Staff, in charge of Federal bird and mammal reservations.

ALICE HALL WALTER in the September-October issue of 'Bird-Lore' discusses a matter of vital importance in the advancement of popular ornithology.

"From time to time," she writes, "and from more than a single source, there has come the criticism that bird-study is in danger of being overpopularized. This criticism does not imply that bird-study should be limited either in its scope or to students of mature years and serious purpose. It does imply that there are persons who care to study birds only in a superficial way, that there are others who present lectures of a merely popular and too frequently similar type, and that the somewhat confused methods of bird- and nature-study at present in use sometimes miss the point by reason of uninspired application and lack of personal initiative."

Ornithology is fortunate in being, for some reason or other, better adapted to popular study than any other science, and for that very reason the great-

est care should be taken to prevent its degeneration into a mere temporary fad or to be made ridiculous at the hands of exponents who are unfitted for their task.

The writer has always maintained that a lecture or an article can be scientific without being tiresome or unintelligible to a popular audience. In other words scientific facts can be presented in popular language without losing any of their force, but the man who does this must know, in the first place, what he is talking about.

As Mrs. Walter says "the superficial student is apt to shun the trained ornithologist's method" and "to balk at his standard of thoroughness." The inevitable result is to throw discredit upon the whole field of popular ornithology.

It would seem that those responsible for the activities of ornithological clubs or classes could do much to check such tendencies as Mrs. Walter has referred to.

The desire to have a lecturer at every club meeting and the natural necessity of cutting down expenses leads to accepting those who are only too anxious to appear on the lecture platform for little or no compensation and whose stock in trade consists of mere anecdotes and time worn facts. Better by far have one good speaker a year who is capable of speaking from personal experience and research and devote the other meetings to discussion of local observations under the direction of one who appreciates the difference between painstaking scientific field work and careless superficial observation.

The injurious element would thus soon be eliminated and the high standard of the study preserved.

Quality in popular ornithology is the need of today rather than quantity.  
— W. S.